

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SNM-02 ISO-00 INR-05 IO-06 OES-02 SS-14

SP-02 PM-03 EB-04 H-01 L-01 /047 W

-----028298 231450Z /72 40

P 230946Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6681

C O N F I D E N T I A SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 17994

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBU: VISIT OF AIR MARSHAL SITTHI SAWETHASILA TO WASHDC

DEPT FOR SN/NAM

1. AIR MARSHAL SITTHI SAWETHASILA, SECGEN THAI NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WILL BE TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON, NEXT WEEK AND WE UNDERSTAND WILL CALL ON DR BOURNE AND MS FALCO REGARDING NARCOTIC MATTERS.

2. MOST RECENT EMB ASSESSMENT OF THAI NARCOTICS SITUATION WAS TRANSMITTED IN BANGKOK 15329, COVERING PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS IN APRIL AND MAY. THAI NARCOTICS EFFORT CONTINUES DEVELOPING IN A HIGHLY POSITIVE VEIN.

A. ON JUNE 16, THAI POLICE RAIDED A RESTAURANT IN DOCK AREA OF PAKNAM, SAMUT PRAKAN PROVINCE, NEAR BANGKOK AND SEIZED 97.3 KILOS OF NO 3 HEROIN, 58.1 KILOS OF MORPHONE BASE, 79.6 KILOS OF COOKED OPIUM, AND 4.5 KILOS OF RAW OPIUM, FOR AN OPIUM EQUIVALENT TOTAL OF 1638.7 KILOS. THIS WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST SEIZURES IN RECENT MEMORY. THE SEIZED NARCOTICS WERE INTENDED FOR

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LOADING ON A TRAWLER AND SHIPPING TO HONG KONG.

B. ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL SIDE, POLICE COL TERM WAS REASSIGNED TO CHIEF OF 7TH SUB-DIV (NARCOTICS) IN BANGKOK. HIS ASSIGNMENT AWAY FROM THE 7TH SUB DIVISION HAD LED TO A FALLING OFF IN THE EFFICIENCY OF THIS KEY UNIT IN THE THAI ANTI NARCOTICS EFFORT, AND HIS RESTORATION TO THE POSITION IS ENCOURAGING.

C. SECGEN OF THAI NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, GEN PHAO SARASIN, HAS TOLD US THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD HIS POSITION IN THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPT AS SEC OF THE POLICE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER, AS WELL AS THE NCB. HE BELIEVES THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HOLD BOTH POSITIONS IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFICIENT PROSECUTION OF THE THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. TERM'S RETURN WAS DIRECTED BY THE PM, INDICATING THE HIGH LEVEL RESPONSE AND ATTENTION WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING FOR SOMETIME.

3. WE HOPE DR BOURNE AND MS FALCO WILL EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE MAJOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION TAKEN BY RTC IN PAST MONTHS. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS HERE. AIR MARSHALL SITTHI MAY EMPHASIZE THE INTEREST OF THE PM IN OBTAINING FOUR HELICOPTERS IN SUPPORT OF A PLAN TO INCREASE THE BORDER PATROL STRENGTH AND CREATING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE SUPPOSEDLY DEDICATED TO NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT MISSIONS.

4. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH AIR MARSHAL SITTHI AND POLICE MAJGEN PHOA CONCERNING THE HELICOPTERS, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE EMB, BUT NO SUCH REQUEST HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED. HOWEVER, RTG AGENCIES ARE WORKING ON BACKGROUND MATERIAL TO JUSTIFY SUCH A REQUEST.

5. EMB CANNOT NOW OPERATIONALLY JUSTIFY ADDITIONALY HELICOPTERS IN VIEW OF THAI FURNISHED STATISTICS WHICH INDICATE NARCOTIC MISSIONS BEING SATISIFIED WHILE AVAILABLE TIME NOT FULLY UTILIZED.

6. WE HAVE DEVELOPED A COUNTER PROPOSAL FOR WASHINGTON IN EVENT FORMAL REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS IS RECEIVED. MAIN POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. PROVIDING OF SPARE PARTS ON ONE TIME BASIS TO ENABLE POLICE TO GET ALL NARCOTIC HELICOPTERS FLYING AND AVAILABLE.

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SP-02 PM-03 EB-04 H-01 L-01 /047 W  
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P 230946Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6682

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DEPT FOR S/NAM

B. REPAIR OF AVIONICS AND PROVISION OF SPARE PARTS

C. PROVIDING TACTICAL TRAINING FOR PRESENT PILOTS AND ASSISTING  
IN DEVELOPING AN ORGANIC TACTICAL TRAINING CAPABILITY.

7. IN AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH AIR MARSHAL SITTHI DURING  
WHICH OUR PROBLEMS IN JUSTIFYING ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS WERE  
PRESENTED, THE OUTLINES OF ABOVE COUNTER PROPOSAL WERE TOUCHED ON.  
SITTHI WAS PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR PROBLEM RELATING TO  
CLEAR NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE HELICOPTERS. HE,  
HOWEVER, RELATED THE PM'S DEEP INTEREST IN OBTAINING THE HEL-  
ICOPTERS, AND HENOTED THE PM'S UNHAPPINESS OVER OUR CAUTIOUS  
APPROACH GIVEN THE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THAILAND  
IN COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING. SITTHI SPEC-  
IFICALLY MENTIONED THE PM'S AWARENESS OF THE NUMBER OF HEL-  
ICOPTERS IN BURMA, GREATLY EXCEEDING THE NUMBER PROVIDED  
THAILAND.

8. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT RULE OUT RECOMMENDING PROVISION OF  
HELICOPTERS IN THE FUTURE, WE BELIEVE THE ABOVE COUNTER-PRO-  
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POSAL, IF ACCEPTED, WOULD PERMIT A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PROBLEM.  
IT WILL ALSO GIVE US TIME TO SEE IF BPP SPECIAL FORCE  
ACTUALLY FUNCTIONS.

9. IF SUBJECT ARISES, WE SUGGEST THAT DR BOURNEAND MS FALCO  
IN DISCUSSING HELICOPTERS WITH AIR MARSHAL SITTHI TAKE A  
SYMPATHETIC APPROACH WHILE POINTING OUT CLEARLY THE  
DIFFICULTY WE WOULD HAVE IN GOING BEFORE CONGRESS AND OBTAIN-  
ING FUNDS FOR MORE HELICOPTERS. THE COULD SUGGEST INFORMALLY  
THE COUNTER PROPOSAL OUTLINED ABOVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE COURSE  
OF ACTION, PERMITTING RTG/USG TIME TO IDENTIFY REAL NEED AND JUS-

TIFICATION.

10. IN EVENT THE AIRMARSHAL MENTIONS CROP SUBSTITUTION A FORMAL RTG REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED, REVIEWED, AND A LETTER SENT TO DTEC REQUESTING OF A PROJECT AGREEMENT. THE EMB IS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND SIGNATURE OF A PROJECT AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE PROPOSAL AND THE REQUESTED WORK IMPLEMENTATION. PLAN. THE PROJECT, WILL UPON, COMPLETION, PROVIDE AN INFRASTRUCTURE IN CHIANG MAI TO PLAN, IMPLEMENT AND COORDINATE FUTURE CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORTS OF THE RTG, GOING A BIT FURTHER BY COMMENCING PLAN PROPAGATION, REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION OF JEEP TRAILS, IDENTIFICATION OF FIVE KEY VILLAGES IN MAE CHAM WATERSHED TO COMMENCE AN ACTUAL CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT, AND TRAINING OF RTG EXTENTION PERSONNEL.

11. THE GREATEST PROBLEM IN CROP SUBSTITUTION AREA IS OBTAINING REAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC COOPERATION OF LONG ESTABLISHED GOVT AGENCIES WITH THE PMS OFFICE, NARCOTIC CONTROL BOARD (NCB) AND ITS OPERATIONAL ARM, OFFICE OF NARCOTIC CONTROL (ONCB). GREATER ATTENTION TO OBTAINING THE FULL COOPERATION OF INVOLVED GOVT AGENCIES AS AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC WELFARE, FORESTRY, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND POLICE WITH NCB/ONCB WOULD RESULT IN FASTER

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PROGRESS IN THE CROP SUBSTITUTION AREA ON THE PART OF INC, AID, UN AND OTHER POSSIBLE DONORS.

12. STADIS USED FOR INITIAL DISTRIBUTION PURPOSES RECOMMEND PASS TO DEA AND CIA.  
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## Message Attributes

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